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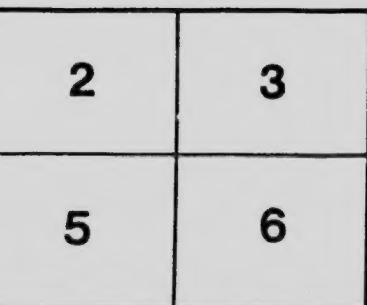
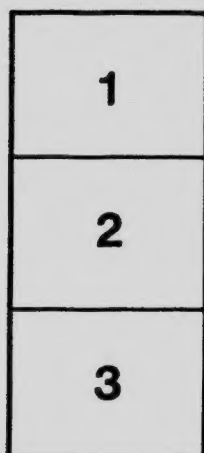
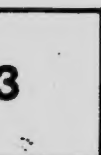
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DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
LIVE STOCK BRANCH.

JOHN BRIGHT,
Commissioner.

H. S. ARKELL,
Asst. Commissioner.

SHEEP AND GOAT DIVISION.

THE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL FLOCK SERIES.

PAMPHLET No. 6.

April, 1914

ADVANTAGES OF DIPPING.

BY

T. REG. ARKELL.

It is important, in order to gain success in sheep husbandry, to be assured that the sheep are in a healthy condition when brought into winter quarters. Under close housing conditions infection runs rife and parasites increase at an alarming rate. This is especially true of the mite, causing sheep scab, the louse and the sheep tick. The wool, being long in the winter, the tick is protected and, consequently, receives greater opportunity for rapid growth and for reproduction of hordes of its own kind. Its ravages, however, can be always lessened and, to a large extent, entirely prevented by fall dipping.

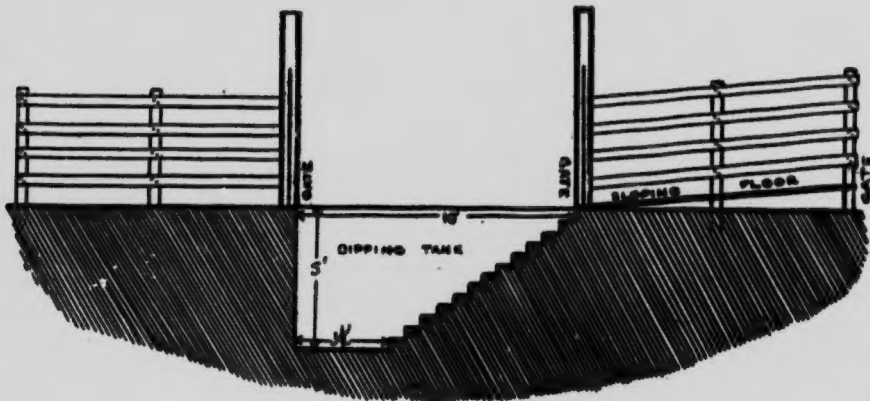
If any sheep in the flock should appear to be infected with scab, that sheep should, without delay, be isolated from the healthy ones. The wool should be clipped from that portion of the body directly affected with the disease, so as to permit the dip coming in full contact with the scabby skin. The sheep should at once be dipped in some reliable material twice at least, and three times still better, at intervals of ten days. A longer period may elapse between the second and third dippings. The stringent, precautionary measures of quarantine and compulsory dipping of infected flocks adopted and pursued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture has, however, happily kept in subjection this most dread disease.

It should be explained that sheep scab is a contagious disease governed by the 'Animal Contagious Diseases' Act and that the owner of a flock in which an outbreak has been discovered is bound to report the fact to the Department. Failure to make such report involves the penalty of a fine of not more than \$200.00.

NECESSITY OF DIPPING.

With the average flockmaster dipping is directed specifically against the sheep tick. Dipping for this purpose should be practiced twice a year in the spring after the sheep are shorn and in the fall as they are taken from pasture. Most shepherds realize the necessity of dipping in the spring when the ticks are plainly visible on the shorn sheep. In the fall the ticks are deeply hidden in the recesses of the wool,

and to the careless sheep raiser are not apparent. He rests under the delusion that the one dipping has destroyed all of these external parasites or that there are not sufficient left to compel a second dipping. This is a mistake that, it must be regretted, with the average farmer is far too usual. It is really more important to dip in the fall than in the spring, since in the spring, if the sheep are shorn early, cold weather will very frequently destroy the unprotected ticks. At that time of year it is more essential to dip the lambs, since the ticks will leave the shorn bodies of the ewes and take up their abode in the longer wool of the lambs where they can obtain some shelter against the cold. Besides, if sheep are severely infested with ticks during the winter they lose flesh and become debilitated more rapidly than during the summer, when both feed and weather conditions are of a more propitious nature to aid the upbuilding or recuperation of their vitality.



Cross Section of Dipping Tank and Pens.

CLASSIFICATION OF DIPS.

Dips can be classified according to the nature of the poison they contain, as carbolic, arsenic and tobacco. Most standard proprietary dips will produce effective results, providing the directions of the manufacturers are carefully followed. No dip should be purchased without a thorough investigation of its merits. The beginner, however, had best guard against purchasing everything his druggist may sell him, since there are many materials on the market locally that are almost worthless and are palmed off on the unsophisticated as "just as good." To be assured of obtaining a good quality of dip, the farmer who raises a small number of sheep should club together with others so as to make it worth while to buy directly from the manufacturer. By so doing the cost of purchase would be considerably reduced.

For a small flock of sheep it will not be necessary to construct an elaborate dipping apparatus. A tub or trough, large enough to hold a sheep, will answer the purpose. There should also be a small pen connected with the dipping trough and with a floor sloping toward the latter, wherein the sheep may be permitted to drain. The wool especially if long, will soak up a large quantity of dip, a part of which can be saved by keeping the sheep in a draining pen for several minutes.

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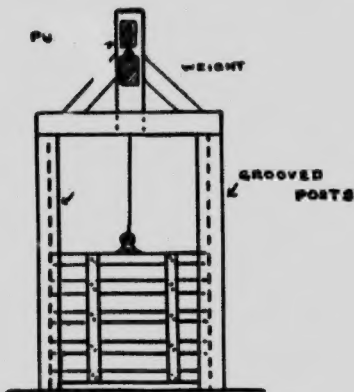
DESCRIPTION OF TANK.

Modern steel tanks may be purchased on the market at a reasonable cost. One can readily be made by a tinsmith from galvanized iron or a wooden frame can be constructed and lined with a thin layer of this material. Concrete vats are also coming into common use. For the average sheep raiser quite satisfactory results can be obtained from a tank made entirely from inch and a half pine plank, smoothly planed and firmly bolted together. The joints should be well covered with pitch to prevent leaking.



Outline of Dipping Tank.

A tank, conforming with the following measurements, will prove suitable for a flock of 50 to 500 head; 10 feet long at the top, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet at the bottom 2 feet wide and 4 feet deep. The sides and one end are perpendicular, the other end having a slope in the neighborhood of 35 degrees. On the entire inner surface of the sloping end are fastened cleats 8 inches apart. These form a stairway by means of which the sheep, with little or no aid, can climb from the vat. The tank is placed in the ground so that the upper edge rests only a foot or so above the surface.



Handy Lift Gate for Dipping Plant.

DRAINING PEN.

The dripping pen is connected with the tank at its sloping end. The sides of this pen may be made of heavy 1 x 4 inch slats with a matched plank floor. The floor should decline gradually toward the vat, so as to permit the return of the dipping fluid. It should also be cleated, but openings, to provide for small narrow drains, must be left on both sides. The draining pen may be very long and the same

width throughout as the vat, or it is commonly made triangular shaped, the same width as the tank where it joins the latter, 5 feet at the other end and 10 feet long. In large flocks it is sometimes an advantage to have two dripping enclosures, one following the other. By so doing more fluid can be saved.

Unless the tank can be conveniently placed in close proximity to the gate of a small yard, a pen, 8 to 15 feet long and the same width as the vat, should join the vertical end of the latter. In structure it resembles the draining pen except that a sloping floor is not necessary. The floor should be on a level with the topmost edge of the vat. From this pen the sheep can be plunged into the dipping fluid. A cleated floor here is also an advantage, and a sloping runway at the entrance.

Dipping should be performed, if possible, on a bright sunny day, so that the sheep may have an opportunity to dry off perfectly. They should remain in the dip at least two minutes. Several minutes must be allowed for draining. The fluid should be heated to about 110 degrees Fahr. Guard, however, against having it so warm as to give the animals a sudden chill when they return to the cold air.



